

**(Washington, DC)** Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) made the following welcoming remarks in regards to Bishop Henry Fernandez, who served as the Guest Chaplain for the U.S. House of Representatives. Bishop Fernandez delivered the opening prayer at the beginning of today's House proceedings.

"An anointed speaker, accomplished author and entrepreneur, Henry B. Fernandez answered the call of God on his life in 1985 and later became an ordained minister in 1988.

"In July 1991, Bishop Fernandez began to demonstrate his faith in God and a commitment to 'walk by faith' in every area of life when, along with his wife, Carol, he founded the Plantation Worship Center in the cafeteria of a local elementary school in South Florida with only 11 members. Now known as The Faith Center Ministries, the church makes its home in the former Sunrise Theater where its more than 8,000 members embrace a mission of 'Reaching the World for Jesus.'

"Gifted with a strong ability to deliver the Word with clarity and in a practical manner, Bishop Fernandez flows in a strong prophetic anointing as he teaches. A visionary who believes it is God's will for everyone to prosper and be in health, he is committed to helping educate people to what God's Word has to say about living and walking in victory.

"Part of that commitment is demonstrated through his founding of The University of Fort Lauderdale, a non-denominational Christian institute fully approved by the Commission of Independent Education. The university, which was established to advance Christian education and promote leadership in both secular and non-secular areas, offers degrees on the associate, bachelor, master, and doctoral levels.

"The Henry B. Fernandez Institute for Learning was also established by Bishop Fernandez to offer biblical courses to ministers and lay leaders who may not be seeking a degree, but desire a solid foundation in the understanding of God's word for evangelizing, mentoring, and inspirational leadership.

"Bishop Fernandez is an amazing inspirational speaker, author, community servant, and

businessman, whose work continues to manifest the freedom of worship enjoyed across our nation. Through his work, he has encouraged us all to exercise faith and live victoriously.

"It was with great honor that I welcomed, my friend and inspirational leader, Bishop Henry Fernandez as our Guest Chaplain for today's opening prayer."

*Congressman Alcee L. Hastings serves as Senior Member of the House Rules Committee, Ranking Democratic Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Democratic Chairman of the Florida Delegation.*

###